

YACHDAV: “LEARNING FROM SUCCESS STORIES”

The steps outlined below will guide you through a process that will enable you to tell your congregation's story of success so that other congregations in the Coalition of Innovating Congregations can learn from your experience.

CREATE A VISUAL STORY BOARD

Prior to the Yachdav Gathering on May 18, 2011, your congregation will create a Story Board to share your most important success story from the past year from one of the three areas listed below:

- (1) Experimenting with and expanding 21st Century Models;
- (2) Defining learner outcomes (priority goals); or
- (3) Designing and facilitating powerful learning.

MATERIALS NEEDED

The following are the materials necessary for this process:

- (1) Trifold presentation board
- (2) Sharpies (or similar fine point magic markers)
- (3) Different colored magic markers
- (4) Any artifacts or materials that serve as examples of your success (i.e., brochures, lessons, artwork, testimonials, images from magazines, etc.)
- (5) Glue sticks
- (6) Scissors

PREPARATION TO SHARE SUCCESS STORY

- (1) **Select An Area of Success:** Decide which of the three areas listed above is the area in which you achieved the most success.
- (2) **Gather Information and Complete Interview Summary Form:**
Turn to page 2. After reading the instructions for the Appreciative Interviews, split into pairs (or a trio if there are an odd number of participants) and take turns asking each other the questions. After completing the interviews, share information from the interviews.
- (3) **Create a Compelling Succinct Story Display:** A compelling succinct story display should include the following elements:
 - Powerful quotes from interviews or your memory
 - A brief (1-2 sentence) explanation of the learning you have gained from your success.
 - A bulleted list of the steps/elements that made your success possible that you can share with others to enable them to learn from your success. (What did you do that enabled the success? What resources were necessary - funds, time, volunteers, etc.? What did you do that you had not done before? What would you do differently based on your experience?)
 - Some kind of visual image using any of the following (pictures, photos, drawings, brochures, lessons, testimonials, artwork, etc.) that can help illustrate your success story. Make sure the Story Board has a heading across the top identifying which area you are presenting.
 - Compelling elements of the stories shared

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UNCOVERING SUCCESS STORIES THROUGH APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY INTERVIEWS

Find a partner. Take turns interviewing each other, using the following questions. When you are asking the questions simply listen. This is an interview, not a dialogue. When the other person pauses, give them time to reflect or encourage them to tell you as much as they can by saying something like “tell me more” or “what else was happening.” Jot down notes while listening.

- (1) Think back over the past year about your participation with the Coalition of Innovating Congregations. Tell me about a time when you felt truly energized and excited about the changes you were helping to implement in your congregation. Describe it in rich detail.
 - What happened?
 - Who was there?
 - What made it such a special moment?
 - What made it possible?

- (2) Think back over the past year about your participation with the Coalition of Innovating Congregations. Tell me about a time when you felt particularly proud about (select one):
 - A time when you felt particularly proud about the way your work involved experimenting with and expanding 21st Century models.
 - Effectively defining learning outcomes.
 - Effectively designing and facilitating powerful learning.

Describe it in rich detail.

- What happened?
- Who was there?
- What made you particularly proud?
- What made it possible?

This protocol is adapted from “Sharing Stories of Success” protocol by Deborah Howard, Esq., M.S.O.D., founder and president of Guiding Change Consulting, Inc.

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